

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #62 **Summer Announcement #57, District 4-A Commercial Fishing Periods** Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through July 12 is approximately 2.6 million fish which is above the median of 1.7 million for this date. Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon.

The preliminary commercial harvest in District 4 through July 12 is approximately 52,400 summer chum salmon with a reported 28 Chinook salmon released alive.

Regulations allow the department to open summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 4-A during times of Chinook salmon conservation with fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operations and all Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must immediately be released to the water alive.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point):
Commercial fishing will be open for seven 24-hour fishing periods, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 14:

Period #14: Sunday, July 14
Period #15: Monday, July 15
Period #16: Tuesday, July 16
Period #17: Wednesday, July 17
Period #18: Thursday, July 18
Period #19: Friday, July 19
Period #20: Saturday, July 20

Fishermen will be notified by July 20 regarding additional commercial fishing periods.

Commercial fishermen should confirm their market before they fish. Commercial fishing will be restricted to fish wheels only that must be manned at all times of operation. All Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must be immediately returned to the water alive.

All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. Other salmon harvested and not sold should be recorded on the fish ticket as “not sold”. These commercial fishing periods do not effect current subsistence management actions and fishing schedules.

Fishermen are reminded that the Board of Fisheries adopted construction specifications for commercial fish wheels in Subdistrict 4-A that are intended to reduce the potential for injuring Chinook salmon while being released. Commercial fish wheels must be constructed in a manner that includes:

- a) basket sides and bottoms consisting of soft mesh material similar to or made of seine web; and
- b) an adjustable or fixed slide or chute that consists of a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides; and
- c) returns Chinook salmon immediately to the water.

Recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or in Fairbanks at 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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